



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESEVE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, February 3, 2011

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

Civic Center Library Board Room
3839 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

PRESENT:

Howard Myers, Chairman
James Heitel, Vice Chairman (arrived 3:02 p.m.)
Gerald Miller, Commissioner
Fred Klein, Commissioner
Deke Joralmon, Commissioner
Linda Whitehead, Commissioner
Melinda Gulick, Commissioner (arrived 3:01 p.m.)
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner
Carla, Commissioner

ABSENT:

Susan Wheeler, Commissioner
BJ Heggli, Commissioner

STAFF:

Bill Murphy
Kroy Ekblaw
Claire Miller
Robbin Schweitzer
Scott Hamilton

GUESTS:

Mike Nolan
Bill Myers
Steve Fleming
Con Englehorn
David Hay
Jessica Ducharme
Carla Benkosky
Barb Pringle

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Con Englehorn mentioned an article in Sunset Magazine about hiking in the Preserve.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the special meeting minutes of January 6, 2011.

COMMISSIONER GULICK MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 6, 2011 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MILLER, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF NINE (9) TO ZERO. COMMISSIONERS WHEELER AND HEGGLI WERE ABSENT.

Approval of the regular meeting minutes of January 6, 2011.

Commissioner Gulick pointed out that Commissioner Hubbell's name was misspelled throughout the document. Commissioner Miller noted that under Financial Update, the last sentence should read: "... repackaging of bonds should be prepared by March."

COMMISSIONER JORALMON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 6, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GULICK, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF NINE (9) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS WHEELER AND HEGGLI WERE ABSENT.

5. **MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE**

Mr. Nolan gave an update on the stewards' January activities and noted that he attended a meeting with the scientists that would be leading the forum on the flora and fauna inventory. He invited Commission members to attend a community breakfast at the Henkle building on March 10, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.

6. **FOUNTAIN HILLS TRAILS CONNECTION**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the background of the trail connection noting that Fountain Hills Town Council has determined to maintain their current restrictions on equestrian use. The staff recommendation is B2, to add the trail to the conceptual plan and restrict the use beyond Sunrise Trail to foot and bicycle traffic.

Discussion ensued regarding Commissioner questions and concerns, connection to the Adero Canyon housing development, and the potential costs associated with building the trail.

Audio technical difficulties occurred at 3:37 p.m. and continued until 3:40 p.m., during which time Mr. Ekblaw explained that it is not assumed at this time that Scottsdale would carry the primary cost of construction and the project would not be placed ahead of current priorities. Design and construction would be a joint effort between Scottsdale and Fountain Hills and it could include the use of volunteers.

Discussion continued regarding Commissioner concerns.

COMMISSIONER MILLER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF TRAIL SEGMENT B2 TO THE CONCEPTUAL PRESERVE TRAILS PLAN WITH USE LIMITED TO FOOT AND BICYCLE TRAFFIC ONLY. COMMISSIONER HUBBELL SECONDED THE MOTION.

Discussion continued regarding involving the Arizona Horse Council in trying to work with Fountain Hills.

THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO TWO (2). COMMISSIONERS CARLA AND WHITEHEAD DISSENTED. COMMISSIONER CARLA DISSENTED BECAUSE THE ARIZONA HORSE COUNCIL WAS NOT CONSULTED. COMMISSIONERS WHEELER AND HEGGLI WERE ABSENT.

7. ROCK CLIMBING POLICY

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the draft Rock Climbing Guidelines for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, which are based on the Pinnacle Peak Park guidelines. He noted that the Arizona Mountaineering Club has expressed their support and have offered assistance in educating the rock climbing community about the Preserve goals and acceptable climbing practices and have offered assistance in trail construction and maintenance.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential liabilities of the Preserve and the City of Scottsdale.

COMMISSIONER HUBBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE DRAFT ROCK CLIMBING GUIDELINES AND THE DRAFT CONCEPTUAL ROCK CLIMBING PLAN AS AMENDED BY COMMISSIONERS KLEIN AND WHITEHEAD FOR THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARLA, THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF NINE (9) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS WHEELER AND HEGGLI WERE ABSENT.

8. GENERAL PLAN

- Dynamite wildlife/Trail Connection
- Invasive Weeds
- Language Refinement

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the proposed language amendments for the Invasive Plants, Wildlife, Trail Connectivity, and Land Use sections of the General Plan. It was the consensus of the Commission to have staff refine the language and bring the final draft for approval to the March McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission meeting.

9. **COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

- Land Resources Task Force

Commissioner Heitel said that the Land Resources Task Force draft report should be completed in time for the March McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission meeting.

10. **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Murphy introduced the two new interns, Carla Benkosky and Jessica Ducharme. He noted that the City Council MSPC nominations are scheduled for March 22 and interviews beginning on April 5.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that the DDC Phase III committee application forms are available on the City website; the deadline for submission is February 14. He is attending monthly meetings with APS to discuss a formal MOU type of agreement for the installation of the 118th Street power line. He noted that he will provide an update on the continuing discussions with State Land Department about land acquisition.

Mr. Hamilton provided an update on the progress of Tom's Thumb and Brown's Ranch. It is hoped to bring the final architect contract to the March 1st City Council meeting.

Ms. Miller highlighted Eagle Scout activities including the Gateway helicopter landing zone and the damages to one of the wildlife friendly mine closures.

11. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Whitehead commented about hiking in Brown's Ranch. She noted that there is still work to be done, including adding signage noting the prohibition of ATVs.

12. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH 2011**

Mr. Ekblaw reviewed the tentative agenda items including a financial update from the Land Resources Task Force, the relationship between activities in the north area and land acquisitions, an update on the 118th Street APS activities, enforcement issues, and the MSPC work plan including discussion of the best forum for reviewing Commissioner Miller's revegetation guidelines.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.